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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

South Dakota Guard unit honored in Iraq for excellence in maintenance

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Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery*

COB ADDER, Iraq – In an effort to learn from the best, Iraqi Army leaders paid a visit to South Dakota National Guard's Bravo Battery to learn how to construct and manage successful maintenance operations on July 17.

The Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery maintenance section was selected to demonstrate procedures to Iraqi leaders by outscoring all other maintenance sections at COB Adder and surpassing every maintenance benchmark set before them.

Iraqi leaders from nearby Camp Ur recently made a command visit to Contingency Operating Base Adder to visit U.S. forces and observe day to day operations while touring several facilities.

"Their visit demonstrates that the Iraqi Army is taking an active role in improving its maintenance program," said Master Sgt. Jeffrey Butler, unit motor sergeant from Sioux Falls, S.D. "The Iraqi leadership is striving to enhance efficiencies and become more independent and self-sustaining."

Col. Subhi Abed Muthana, maintenance officer, and Sgt. Maj. Jwad Sharef Hussein, maintenance non-commissioned officer of the Iraqi Army, examined B Battery's programs and learned organizational techniques and methods used to track maintenance performed on unit equipment.

"It was a great experience to meet with Iraqi Army leaders," said Sgt. Matthew Bisson, a parts and tools sergeant from Dell Rapids, S.D. "The Iraqi Army leaders were very open minded to the ideas we gave them."

Bisson and Butler, along with Sgt 1st Class Wayne Lambert, senior mechanic from

Mitchell, S.D., explained, through an interpreter, Bravo's daily maintenance procedures. Both Muthana and Hussein understand and speak limited English, but use an interpreter to avoid miscommunication. Soldiers walked the Iraqi officials through the unit's parts and tools tent and explained accountability procedures and their importance to mission success.

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Photo Cut Lines:



20080717-A-B0933-016: Sgt. Matthew Bisson, parts and tools sergeant from Dell Rapids, S.D., explains inventory procedures with Col. Muthana and Sgt. Maj. Hussein on July 17 during an Iraqi Army visit to Contingency Operating Base Adder. Bravo Battery was selected to host the visiting official's examination of maintenance operations by outscoring all other maintenance sections at COB Adder and surpassing every maintenance benchmark set before them. (Army photo By Spc. Charles Butler) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080717-A-B0933-016.JPG>



20080717-A-B0933-005: Master Sgt. Jeffery Butler, unit motor sergeant from Sioux Falls, S.D., explains how Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery runs daily maintenance operations to Col. Muthana of the Iraqi Army. The purpose of the Iraqi Army's visit to Contingency Operating Base Adder was to observe how U.S. Forces conduct maintenance operations. (Army photo by Spc. Charles Butler) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080717-A-B0933-005.JPG>



20080717-A-B0933-012: Master Sgt. Jeffery Butler, unit motor sergeant from Sioux Falls, S.D., explains how Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery runs daily maintenance operations to Col. Muthana of the Iraqi Army. The purpose of the Iraqi Army's visit to Contingency Operating Base Adder was to observe how U.S. Forces conduct maintenance operations. (Army photo by Spc. Charles Butler) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080717-A-B0933-012.JPG>

NOTE 1: Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit is currently stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The 180 Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and are conducting various security missions for the next 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

NOTE 2: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 780 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 340 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia. More than 3,800 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, or cell (605) 431-8753.